

Application No. 09/889,860
Filed: July 23, 2001
TC Art Unit: 1733
Confirmation No.: 1184

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants believe that all claims have been placed in condition for allowance.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that the rejection of claim 16 had been overcome. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 16 (and intervening claim 15). Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to be allowable.

The Examiner also indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if amended to define that the axial opening has a rim and that the plug has a lip which matches the shape of the rim to interfit with the same. Claim 13 has been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, this claim is also believed to be allowable.

New dependent claims 28-51 depend from claim 13 and correspond to original claims 2-12 and 15-27. Thus, Applicants submit that these claims raise no new issues and require only a cursory review by the Examiner. (See MPEP § 714.13) Accordingly, entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been amended to correct an obvious error. Claims 17, 24, and 27 have been amended for consistency with amended claim 1.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and indication thereof are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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